Each of the 27 geoindicators in the checklist has the following 10 criterion described:

(1) SIGNIFICANCE – Why is it important to monitor this indicator?

(2) HUMAN OR NATURAL CAUSE – Can this geoindicator be used to distinguish natural from human caused change, and if so how?

(3) ENVIRONMENT WHERE APPLICABLE – In what general landscape settings would this geoindicator be used?

(4) SPACIAL SCALE – At what scale would this geoindicator normally be monitored in the field?

(5) TYPES OF MONITORING SITES – Where specifically should the geoindicator be measured?

(6) METHOD OF MEASUREMENT – How is this indicator measured in the field?

(7) FREQUENCY OF MEASUREMENT – How often should this geoindicator be measured so as to establish a time series and baseline trend?

(8) LIMITATIONS OF DATA AND MONITORING – What important difficulties are there in acquiring field and laboratory data?

(9) APPLICATION TO PAST AND FUTURE – How can this geoindicator be applied to paleo-environmental analysis?

(10) POSSIBLE THRESHOLDS – What thresholds and limits can not be exceeded without drastic environmental change or threats to human health and biodiversity?